

APPEAL NO. 040381
FILED APRIL 14, 2004

This appeal arises pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, TEX. LAB. CODE ANN. § 401.001 *et seq.* (1989 Act). A contested case hearing was held on November 10, 2003, and January 27, 2004. With respect to the single issue before him, the hearing officer determined that the respondent's (claimant) compensable injury of _____, includes a torn left rotator cuff and a compression defect of the thoracic spine. In its appeal, the appellant (carrier) asserts error in the hearing officer's extent-of-injury determination. The appeal file does not contain a response to the carrier's appeal from the claimant.

DECISION

Affirmed.

The hearing officer did not err in determining that the claimant's compensable injury of _____, includes a torn left rotator cuff and a compression defect of the thoracic spine. That issue presented a question of fact for the hearing officer to resolve. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the weight and credibility of the evidence. Section 410.165(a). As the trier of fact, the hearing officer resolves the conflicts and inconsistencies in the evidence and decides what facts the evidence has established. Texas Employers Ins. Ass'n v. Campos, 666 S.W.2d 286 (Tex. App.-Houston [14th Dist.] 1984, no writ). There was conflicting evidence on the disputed issue and the hearing officer was acting within his province as the fact finder in giving more weight to the opinions tending to demonstrate the causal connection between the claimant's compensable injury and the torn left rotator cuff and the compression defect of the thoracic spine. The factors emphasized by the carrier in challenging the extent-of-injury determination on appeal are the same factors it emphasized at the hearing. The significance, if any, of those factors was a matter for the hearing officer in resolving the issue before him. Nothing in our review of the record reveals that the challenged determination is so against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong or manifestly unjust. Accordingly, no sound basis exists for us to reverse that determination on appeal. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175 (Tex. 1986).

The hearing officer's decision and order are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY OF CONNECTICUT** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
800 BRAZOS
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.**

Elaine M. Chaney
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Chris Cowan
Appeals Judge

Robert W. Potts
Appeals Judge